SUMMER OF STRUGGLE

Four Cities, Four Interviews

2025

These interviews originally appeared on It's Going Down during the summer of 2025.

Hundreds Protested Gender Fascists Who Called for “Biblical War” in Seattle, the Police Arrested Them and the Mayor Called them “Infiltrators” - *June 22, 2025*

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To Live and Fight in LA: People’s City Council on the Growing Mobilization in the Streets Against ICE - *July 2, 2025*

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“Neighbors Are Buying Gas Masks for Their Toddlers”: Alissa Azar on ICE’s Continued Brutality in Portland - *August 23, 2025*

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Seattle Against Gender Fascism and Its Enablers

1312 Press on Resisting Christo-Fascism in the Streets and Beyond

June 22, 2025

On May 24th in Seattle, WA, hundreds of people mobilized against a far-Right, anti-LGBTQ+ rally at Cal Anderson Park, located in a historically LGBTQ+ friendly neighborhood and ground-zero for explosive demonstrations in the wake of the police murder of George Floyd, and a center for ongoing mutual aid organizing. The organization sponsoring the event, May Day USA, held their anti-LGBTQ+ themed rally under the banner of "Don't Mess With Our Kids," and promoted long-debunked conspiracy theories attacking queer and trans people.

The rally included speakers such as former Republican politician Matt Shea, investigated by his own party for "his involvement in domestic terrorism as a leader of the Patriot Movement" and who has called for violence to establish a Christian theocracy. In 2018, Shea made headlines for pushing a "manifesto…titled "Biblical Basis for War" that outlines a coming holy war, a battle that would require killing any non-Christian who does not "yield."'

Facing down both gender fascists and the police, protesters outnumbered the far-Right, but saw 23 arrests from law enforcement over the course of

the demonstration, which as *The Stranger* reported, were all "physical and violent." From *The Stranger*:

> That friction would have been hot enough on its own, but between them were dozens of cops, armed, packing "less than lethal" weapons, carrying batons, and announcing instructions on a massive cruiser-mounted speaker. They set up a barrier between the two groups and stood with batons in hand, always facing the counterprotesters. The protest lasted more than six hours, and in that time the police made 23 arrests. All of them counterprotesters, all of them thrown to the ground and cuffed. An elderly man was shoved violently back over the barrier after sitting in peaceful protest on the other side. Witnesses describe cops dragging protestors over the barrier for shouting in the officers' faces. Other protesters, seemingly zip tied and incapacitated, were pepper sprayed.
>
> By 7 p.m., SPD asked the far-right group to end the event, three hours ahead of schedule, exactly as Mayday USA wanted it. With the protection of the police, they went to a historically gay park in a historically gay neighborhood in a historically gay city for a "spiritual" battle. They showed their followers queer people weren't untouchable and that power would side with them over their vulnerable targets. And still, they were able to cry victim—claiming that Seattle is their Goliath, and using it as a rallying cry.

Following the far-Right rally, anger exploded from community, furious that police acted as armed protection for the far-Right, as the Mayor of Seattle denounced anarchists for "infiltrating" the counter-protests, placing blame on violence from the police on those willing to stand up to the anti-LGBTQ+ bigots. Meanwhile, the Seattle police brass in turn attacked the Mayor, calling Cal Anderson Park the "heart of ANTIFA land."

Following the demonstrations, the FBI, which ironically at one point was investigating Matt Shea, but now under Trump is being run by former MAGA social media grifters, announced that they would be looking into supposed “violence” carried out against far-Right “religious” activists. The president of the Seattle’s police officers association, Mike Solan, also put out a podcast featuring laughable AI generated “ANTIFA” images, further attacking the Mayor.

Wanting to know what this all means, we caught up with 1312 Press, an anarchist and antifascist distro in the Pacific Northwest, to find out just what in the hell this all means.

IGD: *On May 24th, our understanding is that 500-1,000 counter-protesters came out to oppose this gender fascist rally at Cal Anderson Park, leading to violent attacks from the police and multiple arrests. This interview isn’t mean to be a report back, but from your understanding, what happened, and who was the far-Right group that held the rally?*

1312 Press: The rally was called “Don’t Mess With Our Kids” (DMWOK) and was couched as a Christian-faith, ‘family-values‘ driven rally and speak-out against what the religious far-Right is claiming as an assault on children across the United States. What they claim is pedophilia, grooming, and intellectual brainwashing of children in schools and other public institutions is actually the mere existence and self-expression of LGBTQ+ communities everywhere.

Seattle, WA is long known for being a very gay city, especially the neighborhood of Capitol Hill, where this hateful rally was permitted to occur. These Christo-fascist organizations are seeking to muster their supporters in what they deem as “strongholds” of the marginalized communities they wish to target and harass. They call for the extermination of trans-people, elimination of legal protections and healthcare for all kinds of queer people and sexual reproduction, and conversion therapy (which famously does not work). It’s important to

label and identify this group and their followers as part of a multi-faceted network of fascist ideology. They seek to issue intense controls, repression, psychological terror, and forcible removals of all members of the LGBTQ+ communities, not even stopping shy of calling for the execution of trans-people, as mentioned above. Framing these attacks on people's freedom of self-expression and identity as protecting "family values" represents an attack on the sexual health and well-being of literally every person in this country.

What happened at this rally is a rather straight forward repeat of most times when a fascist group has attempted to hold space in Seattle, WA and is emblematic of the same instance in many cities in the United States. Under the protection of a permit, DMWOK had a stage and speaker system set-up inside Cal Anderson Park with a fence and police protection. In anticipation of the anti-LGBTQ+ event, several communities groups organized various forms of resistance. While counter-protestors gathered directly across the fence from the rally and yelled at attendees and cops alike, a punk show had been organized in the skate-park across the field with the explicit intention of drowning out the sound system of the Evangelical Christians.

Eventually, attendees from the punk show filed over to the counter-protestors, and tensions began to escalate as neighbors became ever more fed up with the hateful rhetoric from the rally and the police assigned to protect them. Inevitably this resulted in physical altercations between counter-protestors and the police, as well as unprovoked physical attacks by police officers against otherwise peaceful counter-protestors. This is not to place a false hierarchy on styles of protest and anti-fascist mobilization, but rather to highlight that the police were willing to and did physically assault and arrest people who had otherwise been simply standing near the fence and holding a sign. This escalation by the police only aggravated things further.

IGD: *There's a lot of contention that this happened at Cal Anderson Park, a center for activism and a historically queer neighborhood, especially as the rally was meant to attack the LGBTQ+ community as*

"groomers." It seems that it was the city that picked this area, (as opposed to Pike Place), as the place that it would allow for a permit, meaning: police protection. Why do you think the city did this?

1312 Press: I personally think that the context of Cal Anderson Park having been the former location of the Capitol Hill Autonomous Zone during the George Floyd Uprising in 2020 is dwarfed in comparison to the longer history and cultural relevance that the park and the neighborhood serves for Seattle's queer and gay communities.

Capitol Hill is frequently still referred to as Seattle's "gayborhood" despite rampant gentrification that has pushed out its more divergent and rebellious queer nightlife. Capitol Hill is the home for the annual Pride festivals that will dominate the neighborhood at the end of June. Many of the city's best-known and longest-running gay bars are in Capitol Hill. Cal Anderson Park itself was renamed in 2003 after Washington State's first openly gay elected official. The park remains one of the last free and public spaces that people can gather in the city. In assessing the location of this rally, its political and hate-filled messaging, and the decision of Mayor Bruce Harrell to allow it in such a location, this context cannot be overlooked.

Allowing this rally to occur in Cal Anderson Park should be viewed as part of Mayor Harrell's and Seattle Police's broader attempt to criminalize and attack the queer community in Seattle in recent years. In January 2024, Seattle Police raided two separate gay bars in Capitol Hill and issued citations for indecent exposure. Seattle Mayor Bruce Harrell has been attempting to quietly shut down one of the most infamous queer nude beaches in Seattle over the last couple of years. Denny Blaine Beach has been locally and nationally known as a safe space for queer people to gather in the sun and enjoy themselves in their bodies as they are, without fear of contempt or judgement from homophobic viewers.

Last summer, local news media *The Stranger* revealed that Mayor Harrell has been texting with a local millionaire philanthropist Stuart Sloan about their shared "disgust" of the beach and the need to "clean up" the "sub-groups" that populate it. Earlier this May, Seattle Police

Chief had to backpedal and apologize for the police's response to "the situation." With the backdrop of the federal and national level attacks on queer rights and access to sexual health services for trans-people, Mayor Bruce Harrell and the Seattle Police Department appear to be in lockstep with the Trump administration's rampant homophobic policies and disregard for civil rights.

But I would be remiss to neglect from mentioning the importance of the recent history of the George Floyd Uprising. In 2020, these protests and riots convened at the Seattle Police Precinct in Capitol Hill and attempted to march on its front doors for over a week before the police abandoned the precinct, and protestors established the Capitol Hill Autonomous Zone (CHAZ). This geographic significance will forever play a role in anarchists, anti-fascists, communists, radicals, in their commitment to preserving the space as a site for autonomous and free experiments with living. The failure to prevent the establishment of the CHAZ will always be a stain on the legacy of the Seattle municipal government and its police force, but the cultural and political importance of Cal Anderson Park extends far beyond the memory of the CHAZ. Cal Anderson Park served as a meeting point for protests and rallies long before 2020, and many political demonstrations in the city start there, regardless of their political persuasion. While this is worth considering in analyzing why the city elected to grant a permit to homophobic Evangelical Christians and thus facilitate and cop-beatdown of counter-protestors, I believe it is overshadowed by the grander context of Capitol Hill as a "gayborhood" and the city's attack on its queer communities.

IGD: *The response from the city mayor, a Centrist Democrat, was to claim to be in support of the LGBTQ+ community but also denouncing anarchists for infiltrating the protests. What is your response to these attacks from the mayor. Obviously anarchists did not "infiltrate" the protests, they were part of them and have a long history both in Seattle and in local organizing projects. Why is the mayor pushing this nonsense?*

1312 Press: Since I wrote above quite a bit about the mayor's false claims to being an ally of the LGBTQ+ community, I'll focus on the demonization of anarchists here. Harrell was on the Seattle City Council from 2008 – 2020, and is well acquainted with the Seattle municipal government's tradition of criminalizing anarchists for protest chaos. On August 30, 2010, Seattle Police Officer Ian Birk shot and killed Native American woodcarver John T. Williams, and the city exploded in a long campaign of anti-police protest that sometimes included violent clashes with police and property destruction.

Anarchists were heavily involved in these initiatives against the police, committed to pushing movements for reform closer to what we now commonly refer to as "abolition." On May 1, 2012, the local rendition of "Occupy" climaxed into an incredibly riotous May Day demonstration with hundreds of anarchists in black bloc committing property damage and attacking police in the city's commercial downtown shopping district. In 2014 and 2015, Seattle was one of many cities across the country taking to the streets in solidarity with the Ferguson Uprising against the police as part of the beginning of the "Black Lives Matter" movement. During all three of these instances of popular protest, anarchists have been criminalized by the mayor and city council and described as "outside agitators" committed to disrupting peaceful protest and ruining otherwise legitimate attempts at collective action and social change.

Mayor Bruce Harrell is no stranger to this attempt to discredit rowdy and unmanageable protests by identifying them with society's most historically hated boogeyman, the anarchist criminal. The city largely noticed that this rhetoric was unsuccessful, however, with the first election of Donald Trump and the ensuing anti-fascist street battles, where anarchists and militant anti-fascists were seen by many as the only people protecting anyone from violence at the hands of Proud Boys and their allies.

During the George Floyd Uprising in 2020, which in Seattle stretched into much of 2021, anti-police protests and sentiment had become too

generalized to successfully associate street militancy with a minority political position. In attempting to attribute the trouble of the counter-protest in Cal Anderson to anarchists, Bruce Harrell aims to accomplish several things: isolate and criminalize a faction of protestors known for instigating conflict, discredit any rowdy elements of protest that rightfully critique police and city government complicity with homophobic rhetoric, assert that there is a correct way to protest, *just not like that*, and in doing so, simultaneously attempting to appear on the side of the LGBTQ+ community, and lastly, split the Seattle queer community from the anarchist movement (a gutsy move to be sure), by deflecting blame for the violence at the counter-protest from the police, to the outside agitator anarchists.

Of course, as you mention, anarchists are and have been part of Seattle's LGBTQ+ community for decades. To leverage that they are separate is create an entirely false dichotomy that seeks to depoliticize queerness and decouple anarchism from its long history of critiquing the nuclear family, patriarchy, and heteronormative supremacy. Likewise, anarchists and anti-fascists have a long history of countering the fascist attack on gender rights; we are not simply allies of the queer community, we are of and within the queer community.

IGD: *Let's now talk about the response from the cops. After the protest, the police on their own podcast, put out this strange AI image, featuring masked "ANTIFA" militants with a sign that said, "ANTIFA for Mayor." They also attacked "ANTIFA" as a group in a statement, claiming that Cal Anderson park was a hotbed of "ANTIFA" extremism. Is this position and the Mayor's essentially two sides of the same coin?*

1312 Press: It's worth pointing out here that six Seattle Police Department officers attended Donald Trump's "Stop the Steal" rally on January 6th, 2021. Two of them have been fired, and the other four remain unidentified due to a battle in the courts over whether to release their names to the public.

The podcast that posted this ridiculous AI-generated image is run by Mike Solan, the president of the Seattle Police Officer's Guild (SPOG),

which is essentially their union. Throughout 2020, the Seattle Police were rightfully made out to be public enemy number one – while they were embattled by literally months of nonstop protests and riots, the King County Labor Council voted to expel SPOG. The black bloc elements of popular anti-police protests during the George Floyd Uprising were nominally referred to as “ANTIFA”, for better or for worse, and SPOG have come to identify any and all anti-police sentiment as “ANTIFA-coded.”

They very clearly saw this return to Cal Anderson Park to protect homophobic Evangelicals and fight protestors as a return to the battles for the Capitol Hill Autonomous Zone. SPOG and SPD have been at odds with Seattle municipal leadership since 2020, and this can perhaps be attributed to the decision to vacate the police precinct and its evading culpability. While then Mayor Jenny Durkan issued the call for police to clear the surrounding streets, the command to vacate the precinct remains without claimed origin. Text messages between then Police Chief Carmen Best, then Mayor Jenny Durkan, and Fire Chief Harold Scoggins have mysteriously vanished.

Following this sequence of events, Seattle Police and their labor union SPOG have increasingly become politically isolated while financially over-inflated with increasing annual budgets from the city. Mayor Bruce Harrell’s statement, while attempting to criminalize anarchists, was clearly lacking in defense of the police given the city-wide backlash against police violence on that day. In the end, there is no legitimate device for any kind of accountability for the Seattle Police or their union and its president Mike Solan.

They stand to gain political capital through attempting to manipulate Seattle municipal government into giving them increased support and backing, and by painting Seattle as a city ruled by “ANTIFA” they continue Harrell’s criminalization of anarchists by seeking to justify past, current and future acts of repression and violence.

IGD: *It’s 2025, Trump is in power. The connections between the far-Right, MAGA influencers, and even some fringes of the white*

nationalist movement are blurring. What do you make of how far-Right groups, like the one that rallied in Cal Anderson Park, are moving in this terrain? And what does this mean for antifascist resistance?

1312 Press: The interesting thing about DMWOK is that they don't fit this same image and characterization of fascist street-level groups that we successfully pushed off the streets under Trump's first presidential term. They're mostly families, extremely oriented in their Christian faith, united by spirituality and Christo-fascist ideals of a nuclear white family. Interestingly enough, they are also not organizing in the same way that the street-level fascist groups were during Trump's first term. While the Proud Boys and Identity Evropa, among others, sought to instill terror and physically attack our communities in the streets, groups like DMWOK are attempting to effect policy at the state and federal level through public rallies. I don't think they actually want to incite and instigate violence between opposing sides, but rather through their rallies they aim to highlight what they believe is the "rabid horde of LGBTQ+ Drag Queens attempting to groom children" and through this, convince policy makers and lobbyists to push through the anti-trans and anti-queer policies we are seeing nationwide.

During 2016 – 2021, militant anti-fascists very successfully pushed fascists and neo-Nazis of several varieties off the streets. Identity Evropa completely disbanded. The Proud Boys lost their leadership and their rank-and-file come and go before anti-fascists determine they're worth identifying. Patriot Front is forced to hold surprise rallies in isolated locations, and even when they happen, they are confronted and outnumbered by neighborhood residents, sending the fascists running scared into a box truck. However, this overwhelming victory in the streets was not accompanied in the halls of state power, as far-Right conservatives have made successful pushes for elected policy-making decisions at many different levels of local government. The emergence of groups like DMWOK signifies a shift in far-Right and fascist organizing away from street fighting to policy and optics, and frankly anti-fascists today are not well equipped to counter this move.

We must fine tune our analyses of how policy and state law effect our bodies and how to resist it. We are well aware and have articulated many times over that voting is not going to save us – the elected politicians throughout this country have shown that they are not interested in representing the wishes of their electorate, or they are powerless to protect access to reproductive and sexual health care. While the national-scale attacks on LGBTQ+ communities do possess both a street-violence aspect and a policy aspect, militant anti-fascists have only shown to be able to successfully fend off the street-violence aspect in broad, popular settings. You simply cannot have a fist fight with a policy.

While it is incredibly necessary to openly oppose groups like DMWOK whenever they seek to mobilize and rally, we have to look deeper into how these attacks on our communities are being effected in the halls of power and how to resist them. Mobilizing as a black bloc can only fight certain kinds of enemies, it is not going to get you gender-affirming health care. Learning how to fight by yourself or alongside your friends will hopefully protect you from bigots in the streets, but it is not going to guarantee your access to hormone therapy, safe and secure abortion, or the countless other ways that the Trump administration is currently attempting to instill its fascist, patriarchal, hetero-normative regime of reproduction. It is perhaps clearer now more than ever that every element of the fight against gender fascism is required, if they wish to take the battle to our bodies, we have to meet them there at every front, not just the ones we know we've already won.

IGD: *It seems clear that both the establishment politicians and law enforcement are only going to double down on conspiracies of "outside agitators" and "ANTIFA" supersoldiers. What does this mean for us? We've seen these bullshit narratives for years, what does it mean to push back against them now in 2025?*

1312 Press: This rhetoric and attempt to de-legitimize radical, rowdy, unmanageable political forces is not new, nor contained to the United States. Anarchists, communists, Wobblies, and anti-fascists for over 100 years have struggled with largely successful attempts by the state to

discredit our movements and separate us from the popular classes. They do this as a way to justify the impending repression that often looks like years in prison, police violence, or generalized trauma resulting from never-ending court dates and media sensationalism.

The first response to these outlandish conspiracies is two-fold: we must resist imposed isolationism, and we must resist populism. Our projects, regardless of their political slant, must seek to make themselves relevant to people struggling to address the material conditions of their suffering under capitalism, patriarchy, colonialism, imperialism, and white supremacy. This is incredibly vague language so I'll try to be more specific for a moment: when anarchists were criminalized for committing property damage in a commercial shopping district, it was difficult to stir up a broader sense of support and anger at the police and municipal government. When anarchists were criminalized for standing up against the police and homophobic Christians, everybody knew this as an immediate and complete farce. We have to make our struggles relevant to the lived reality of people we are not directly organizing with.

However, we have to simultaneously resist the urge and pull of populism. Populism requires the watering down of political convictions in an attempt to attract the largest amount of followers, the defanging of street action so as to not scare away potential believers, and the insistence on victimizing narratives that are not only factually incorrect but dangerous. While pursuing populism may increase group numbers, it drastically limits the possibility of action and its potentials for effecting societal change. We must be bold in our actions, honest and daring in our discourse, and unwavering in our goals. Additionally, we have to be frank with ourselves and understand that huge swathes of the U.S. population believe in and agree with Trump's stances on gender, sex, and abortion access. We are simply not going to convince these millions of Trump voters to join our ranks on behalf of queer and trans communities. We have to stake out our positions against the rising tide of populist homophobia and protect our communities.

Finally, we cannot forget our prisoners, the victims of state repression resultant from criminalization and state ostracization of our movements. We have to be honest with ourselves that repression and jail time are not only possible, but in most instances they are inevitable. Serving time in jail or prison is simply a continuation of the struggle, and we must center anti-repression in all of our struggles if we are to successfully overcome the fear of police violence and incarceration that so often forecloses on our abilities to resist the state and fascism. When the state successfully imprisons a comrade or a friend, they are attempting to remove them from the struggle and erase their bold decision to break the law from our memories. Just as every struggle must also be a struggle against the police, it necessarily must be a struggle against repression and for our prisoners. Breaking the borders of isolation, speaking through the walls or telephone wires, and extending the struggle from the streets to the prison cells is how we counter the isolating and silencing intentions of repression. We have to make sure there is room in our struggle for our imprisoned comrades when they come out of jail, otherwise we are condemning ourselves to failure.

To Live and Fight in LA

People’s City Council on the Growing Mobilization in the Streets Against ICE

July 2, 2025

In early June, demonstrations exploded after ICE carried out militarized raids in working-class communities and workplaces in Los Angeles, CA, leading to large confrontations between ICE, the LAPD, and angry community members who rallied in defense of imprisoned family members and neighbors. The next day, confrontations again erupted, after ICE agents attacked protesters outside of a Home Depot, while people bravely defended their neighborhood from violent raids. The following day, Trump federalized several hundred National Guard soldiers, sending them to guard a downtown federal building, as clashes exploded in the streets between demonstrators and law enforcement, followed by the Mayor putting in place a curfew, as police violently attacked protesters and journalists.

But while the spectacular battles in the streets have died down, the organizing on the ground has not. On July 1st, hundreds responded to a call from the Los Angeles Tenants Union (LATU) to hold demonstrations against ongoing ICE activity in the city, as mutual aid groups mobilized to support those too afraid to go outside and work, demonstrators continued to rally outside of local hotels, demanding that ICE agents be kicked out, and community defense hubs have sprung up outside of Home Depot stores and beyond. Clashes between ICE and community members have also remained ongoing; a recent raid by ICE in one

working-class city in LA county led to local residents damaging DHS vehicles and pushing out federal agents.

Wanting to get a better sense of the scope of this deepening organizing happening on the ground in Los Angeles, we sat down with a participant involved in the People's City Council, an "abolitionist, anti-capitalist and anti-imperialist collective" that is reporting from the streets of southern California on the unfolding wave of activity against ICE and beyond.

IGD: *There's been a lot written about the initial demonstrations which kicked off in early June, but what's the big picture of what's been happening on the streets of LA?*

People's City Council: First, it's important to understand that yes, there may be some spontaneous combustion in LA, but also that this moment has been brewing, combined with the on-going multi-generational organizing efforts here.

And as we saw in February with the high school student walkouts, many of those you see out in the streets are young people. It makes sense considering there a lot of local kids that grew up here who likely either have a parent, relative, or neighbor that the State would classify as "illegal." The sentiment of "this is an attack on us, on our people" is widespread in the city. So, folks are upset and hitting the streets and are taking action to show that LA will not back down. It's been inspiring to see how people are resisting. We are very proud of everyone out there, especially the young people who continue to show up.

What we are seeing right now cannot be understood without recognizing the impact of how organizers responded during the fires in January, the city showing up alongside young people getting active during the 2024 student intifada, the 2020 uprising, the decade long block by block tenant organizing spearheaded by LA Tenants Union, and the mutual aid efforts in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic that have grown and saved lives across the city and county. There is a direct lineage and connection to both these modern events and historic actions like the immigration rights

protests in LA in 2006 and 1994, the 1968 Chicano Moratorium – and though the current moment has not reached the level of the 1992 LA Riots or the 1965 Watts Rebellion, there has certainly been flashes of similarities.

Families are being torn a part and our neighbors are being kidnapped right in front of us. It's no surprise that people are reacting the way they are. The events that have unfolded draw similarities to the beginnings of the First Intifada, where we see young people using whatever materials they have available to them to fight back and throw at the pigs. Though, of course, we've only seen a brief glimmer of rebellion and we are not *yet* in such a sustained historical moment.

The very first night outside the federal detention center on June 6th, we saw an hours long back and forth between federal agents and protesters. Despite the onslaught of pepper balls, tear gas, flash bangs, 'less lethals' and more from DHS/HSI pigs, people in the streets did not back down and kept coming back for more. Rebellion *was* in the air that night. Note: this is not true for all groups/orgs there that night, non-profits and big unions such as SEIU and CHIRLA were on a truck-bed chanting, "Shut it down!," but those groups ordered people to move away from the point of contention at the detention center. Hundreds followed. Hundreds stayed.

One of the most important pieces of this moment, which has not been talked about much, is that the people on the inside of the detention center have been able to look out at the rebellion on the outside. These expressions are meaningful and legitimately connected to the theory and praxis of tearing down the prison walls. Just a few days later on June 13th in New Jersey, captives at Delaney Hall literally tore down the prison walls during a prison break.

There was a real spark of uprising that carried through the weekend. We saw people in Paramount and Compton first chase the feds out and away from their staging area and then engaged in a day long battle in the streets with the feds AND LA Sheriff's Department. The energy continued to grow into the following day where we saw tens of thousands out in downtown Los Angeles. It was a beautiful show of what

happens when you overwhelm the pigs. People surrounded the detention center, others took over the freeway and engaged with California Highway Patrol, as many others were out maneuvering through the streets of DTLA and put the LAPD on the run.

The people simply could not be contained. Because the pigs could not easily kettle protesters or push them in one direction, they were stuck and confused in the streets. As one group marched down the street with shields, advancing on the pigs, others were able to get the high ground on the police, allowing them to run across the Temple St. bridge and throw objects down at the pigs. Pretty much every building downtown was tagged with “FUCK ICE” and “ACAB” graffiti, Waymos were set on fire, and CHP and LAPD cars were sabotaged and destroyed. We saw in real time a new set of rules, theory, and understanding being developed for those in the streets. People have begun to understand that the only thing that is going to stop these fascist monsters is ourselves.

There have been countless brave heroes like Adrian Andrew Martinez, the young man who was arrested by ICE while they attempted to grab his elderly co-worker in a Walmart parking lot. Adrian stepped up to stop the kidnapping attempt and was disappeared for 24 hours before his family could locate him at the federal detention center.

Though mainstream coverage of the “protests” has slowed down, it does not mean that the organizing and actions have stopped. The raids have continued throughout the month of June. It’s been an onslaught of attacks on our communities; targeting street vendors and day laborers, the heart of what makes Los Angeles such an amazing city. There is a strong grassroots base of folks, (born out of the Community Self Defense Coalition, led by Union del Barrio), across the city and county who are taking shifts patrolling their neighborhoods, beginning early in the morning. People are organizing “buyouts” for vendors so they have money to stay home and avoid danger. We’ve seen amazing creative actions outside of hotels where federal agents are sleeping at. These actions have been successful in either forcing ICE to flee/leave or some

hotels even saying that they will not allow the feds to stay there. For more info, be sure to check out no.sleep.for.ice on Instagram.

As one LA organizer said “Life in LA right now: Wake up and clock in for your ICE Watch shift. Clock out and deliver groceries to your neighbors. Buy as much as you can from any street vendor you see. Recharge and strategize with your comrades. End the night, loud as hell outside a hotel where ICE sleeps.”

Lastly, we have to center the importance of the Olympics. What many people don’t understand is that Mayor Karen Bass and the city of Los Angeles are obligated to comply with the feds due to the 2028 Olympics. The Olympics are designated as “National Special Security Event” (NSSE) which allows federal agencies like DHS, ICE, CBP, and Secret Service to coordinate “security” with local law enforcement. Mayor Bass cannot legitimately say “ICE out of LA,” when she invited the feds to LA in January 2024. LAPD shares information with the feds through the joint terrorism task force and LAPD assists the feds by “securing the perimeter” during immigration raids. LAPD is essentially body guards for ICE during kidnapping operations.

To read more about NSSE’s make sure to follow NOlympicsLA.

IGD: *The mass media has largely focused on the interplay between California Governor Gavin Newsom and Trump, and the supposed legality (or not) of Trump federalizing National Guard troops and bringing in the Marines. What is the reality on the ground about the State’s use of the military in Los Angeles?*

PCC: The National Guard and Marines have mainly been stationed outside the federal buildings in Downtown and Westwood. We have seen the National Guard get involved with the protests when people attempt to approach the buildings but other than that, most of protest violence we’ve seen has come from LAPD. The first day the marines were in LA, they detained a Black man outside of the VA.

There was talk and threats of the Marines taking over MacArthur Park, sandwiched in-between Koreatown and Downtown, however that has

seemed to die down, for now. Though, as mentioned above, I would not be surprised if this type of thing continues to be discussed leading up to the Olympics. This is all aligned with the city's assault on unhoused people and the plan to "clean up" the city ahead of 2028. Democrats and Republicans will continue to wield the police state in order to further their goals.

In many ways, the National Guard and Marines look just like LAPD and LASD. Our local police departments are "militarized" and it's evident for people out there who see the armored vehicles and weaponry. LAPD's crowd control training comes from military tactics and techniques. Just look at how the 1984 Olympics helped ramp up the militarization of LAPD.

IGD: *As you all have pointed out, much of the violence against the public has come directly from the LAPD. What are you seeing on the ground about the interplay and action between the police, ICE, and the military?*

PCC: This is the most frustrating and hilarious part about most of the media coverage. The majority of the violence targeting protesters and people defending their neighbors has been from LAPD. LA Mayor Bass and Newsom are cosplaying as leaders and saying they want Trump out, when in reality they just want to be the ones to shut down the people in the streets.

Elected officials and media are obscuring the truth about what's happening. The mayor and LAPD try to say there is no coordination between the city and feds, however, their actions and statements from the feds indicate otherwise. LAPD was there, securing the perimeter for the federal immigration operation that set off this whole response on June 6th. Then during the demonstrations outside the detention center the night of June 6th, the LAPD and DHS were seen forming a joint skirmish line to push protesters back.

ICE even put out a statement saying ""Our brave officers were vastly outnumbered, as over 1,000 rioters surrounded and attacked a federal

building. It took over two hours for the Los Angeles Police Department to respond." So the coordination and collaboration has been there since day one of the raids. People should be offended by the gaslighting and lying coming from those in power. We can see with our own eyes what's really happening in LA.

Recently, LAPD arrested a local documentarian, Anthony Orendorff during a federal kidnapping operation at a Home Depot in Pacoima. The LAPD held Anthony without bail for four days to punish him for documenting their collaboration. Charges were eventually rejected by the City Attorney. But this is the extent the State will go to hide and cover up what is happening in LA.

***IGD:** What happened with ICE using Dodger stadium?*

PCC: Again, another example of shameless gaslighting by those in power and the media. The facts are: the feds were carrying out operations in the area near Dodger stadium. A bunch of fed vans were seen driving into Dodger Stadium. We were literally there and witnessed LAPD come to back up ICE agents who were being confronted by community members. We later found out that this is where the feds were taking arrestees to transfer them to different detention centers. An American citizen, Job Garcia, who was arrested that day, spoke to the media and said he "was among 30 detainees who were brought to Dodger Stadium where federal agents verified his America citizenship. He said the stadium is reportedly being used as a hub for detainees."

Job was held at the same detention facility as our young hero Adrian Martinez. "You're the Walmart kid, right?" he asked him. Garcia told him what had unfolded outside the Home Depot. "That's exactly what happened to me," he said Martinez told him. "They were bullying this older guy. I didn't like that so I went and confronted them and they put their hands on me and I pushed their hands off."

The Dodgers came out with a statement saying that they had not allowed ICE to "use the parking lots." However this is bullshit semantics. Federal agents were seen using the stadium entrance roads to stage for their

operations. They may not have literally been “in the parking lot,” but they were certainly *at* Dodger Stadium. They attempted to get control of the narrative, however, what we saw with our own eyes and the story from Job Garcia the next day, we know what was really happening there.

This is connected to a long history of displacement at Dodger Stadium: the residents of Palo Verde, La Loma, and Bishop were all forcefully evicted and their homes destroyed in the 1950s to make way for Dodger Stadium.

***IGD:** Do you think the State can continue this level of activity? Where do things go from here?*

PCC: Yes. They can and they will. We are currently seeing the expansion of the surveillance state and repression. Right now in LA we are seeing targeted arrests and house raids of organizers, warrants, wiretaps, grand juries, etc. They are attempting to cast a broad net. This is reminiscent (and as we have all been warning) of how the State went after the Stop Cop City movement.

Alejandro Orellana, an organizer with local org Centro CSO, is facing federal charges for allegedly passing out face shields and water bottles to demonstrators at a protest. Another Centro organizer, Verita Topete, was ambushed by the FBI in a park and had her phone seized.

Fascist US Attorney, Bill Essayli, is using his platform to target organizers and threaten those who are willing to take action to defend their neighbors. Essayli tweeted out a false statement about Adrian Martinez, stating he was arrested for punching a CBP agent in the face, though, no assault charges were ever filed.

With all that we know and with the 2028 Olympics approaching, we can surely expect things to continue to ratchet up in Los Angeles.

Keep eyes on LA. We won’t back down. “We keep us safe” is the spirit of the city.

“Neighbors Are Buying Gas Masks for Their Toddlers”

Alissa Azar on ICE’s Continued Brutality in Portland, Oregon

August 23, 2025

Over the summer, we’ve seen people in Los Angeles and across the US mobilize in the face of the ramping up of horrific and violent deportations, as the Trump administration makes a real push for country-wide ethnic cleansing. As we speak, people in Washington DC are seeing their streets flooded with federal law enforcement, as communities mobilize grassroots rapid response networks and mutual aid initiatives, in an effort to defend their neighbors and resist ICE, while federal agents set up check points and the National Guard drives tanks down DC streets.

Meanwhile, cities like Portland, OR, are seeing ongoing, often nightly demonstrations, as popular opinion continues to sour against growing attacks against working-class immigrants and protest action against ICE shows no signs of slowing down. But while the pro-Trump media plays up hysteria around demonstrators “storming” ICE offices, in reality, the real violence is coming from the state itself.

As *Rolling Stone* recently reported:

> Agents in gas masks burst out of a gated driveway amid curtains of green smoke and other

crowd-control munitions. Protesters tell of agents raining pepper-ball rounds down on them from the rooftop of the facility. The demonstrators have been broadly nonviolent — although some agitators have been arrested and brought up on both minor and serious charges.

The habitual deployment of chemical irritants by federal agents has created fear in the neighborhood. Locals have posted biohazard warning signs: “This area has been sprayed with TEAR GAS & TOXIC CHEMICALS.”

As a new academic year approaches, a nearby public school has been forced to abandon its longtime campus, citing threats to student health. “We didn’t know if there are new gases being used. We didn’t even know how to identify them,” says the school’s interim executive director, Laura Cartwright, who committed to an “emergency move” amid cratering enrollment. “If we would have stayed, we might have lost our school because of people’s concerns around safety.”

The makeup and potential health impacts of the chemical munitions used by ICE in the neighborhood has not been disclosed. ICE did not respond on the record for this story, including to questions about its crowd-control arsenal. Anti-ICE activists have begun cataloging canisters collected from the streets outside the facility, posting pictures of munitions labeled “CS,” or tear gas; “Green Smoke”; and “Orange Smoke.” (A demonstrator on the scene also showed this reporter a spent canister of Green Smoke.)

In July, Portland’s city government disclosed it has received reports of “chemical munitions” being used against protestors, including “pepper balls, pepper spray, and… smoke grenades.” It

> described steps it has taken to prevent ICE's chemical pollution from entering local waterways. (The city's own police have been so trigger-happy firing chemical munitions against protesters that the bureau got written up by war crimes investigators.)

Repression against anti-ICE protesters has also been escalating, with the FBI making targeted arrests, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) attacking anarchist websites for supposedly "doxxing" ICE agents, and "Border Czar" Tom Homan, threatening to send even more federal law enforcement agents into Portland, in retaliation for ongoing solidarity demonstrations.

Wanting to know more about the context of this unfolding scene in Portland, we sat down with grassroots journalist, Alissa Azar, to find out what is really happening amidst the clouds of tear-gas and the ongoing fury against escalating attacks by ICE.

IGD: *Broadly speaking, what's been happening in Portland, OR since protests heated up in Los Angeles, CA in early June? Seems there has been an uptick in demonstrations outside of the ICE facility there?*

Alissa Azar: Definitely. Since June 8th, people in Portland have been holding it down outside the ICE field office with consistent, daily demonstrations. It started small, folks setting up tents and establishing a presence, but quickly picked up momentum. For the first few weeks, it looked like an occupation. People were occupying space near the facility despite constant harassment from the Portland Police Bureau (PPB), who kept posting bogus "illegal campsite" notices and threatening sweeps. Sometimes they followed through, stealing and destroying people's supplies. Other times, folks moved preemptively. But the protest didn't stop. People stayed resilient and kept showing up.

Over time, the energy shifted from a stationary encampment to a persistent, mobile demonstration. Every morning, afternoon, and night, people have been out there in protest, nonstop.

What's been especially powerful is the depth of community support and the diversity of tactics and events. There've been Indigenous-led prayer and dance ceremonies, art builds, nighttime bloc'd-up demos, group bike rides to the facility, bloc parties, dance parties, liberal rallies, cookouts… You name it. It's been going on every. Single. Day. Mutual aid has been constant, with folks bringing food, medical supplies, water, and whatever else people need. I remember being overwhelmed by the sheer number of cars honking in support on multiple occasions. At some point, you get used to the noise, but it's a beautiful thing to grow numb to.

IGD: *This place was also the scene of the Abolish ICE occupation protests in 2018, how has this history influenced, if at all, the recent demonstrations?*

Alissa Azar: I think it would be naive of me to assume there aren't at least some of the same people involved now who were part of the 2018 occupation. Portland has a long memory, and one of the things that makes this city magical is how often you see people from different waves of resistance, different generations of struggle, showing up alongside each other. There are a lot of lessons and information that get passed on through shared experiences, and that's really special.

Still, this moment feels different. Perhaps not any more strategic, but there's certainly a hunger for it. People are tired of symbolic gestures. They want to be intentional, to organize and act in ways that feel grounded, effective, and harder to co-opt. There's a tension between that desire and the reality of intense surveillance, burnout, and the sheer speed at which things are unfolding. But the desire is real, the energy is real, and that means something.

That shift feels especially important given how much the landscape has changed. Now, that same violent machinery responsible for ICE raids and deportations has expanded its targets. Migrant communities are still

being brutalized, detained, disappeared, and deported, but we're also seeing increased surveillance and repression aimed at those who show up to resist that violence. Protesters are being tracked with AI, filmed by drones, and snatched by federal agents in unmarked vans. They're being criminalized just for showing up. So while the roots of this movement go back to 2018 and long before, the stakes feel exponentially higher, and the state's repression more violent, strategic, and widespread.

***IGD:** How have police and federal law enforcement responded to the protests?*

Alissa Azar: In the first month, especially the first two weeks, the police response was heavy and brutal. The Portland Police Bureau (PPB) showed up every night with large bike squads rolling through, riot vans, and squad cars stationed all around the ICE building. The scene was almost always the same: protesters gathered on the sidewalks or driveway, and federal agents would clear the way for their vehicles with violent force. They fired thousands of pepper balls at close range, launched tear gas canisters aimed at people's heads, charged at random individuals, and made violent arrests to clear their driveway. Targeted arrests, like for alleged graffiti, were mostly done by PPB early on after being given descriptors from federal agents.

During this, Chief Day and PPB attempted to manage optics by claiming they don't engage in immigration enforcement in each press release about an arrest they made at ICE, trying to distance themselves from federal agents. But behind the scenes, they continued working with the feds to identify and build cases against demonstrators. While PPB's presence has been less overt lately at ICE in the way they were at first, they're still around and surveilling activists.

Meanwhile, federal law enforcement presence and violence have only escalated. BORTAC and other federal agents from across the country flooded in…some wearing Texas patches, one sporting a "Portlandistan" patch. The violence they've inflicted has sent at least 11 people to the hospital with serious injuries. They've fired tear gas and munitions in massive quantities, sometimes shooting munitions from rooftops. People

have been arrested on fabricated charges, detained, ID'd, and released. Neighbors by the facility are buying gas masks for their toddlers because of all the chemical weapons seeping into their homes. It's bad.

The repression has also escalated beyond the streets. One person arrested by PPB had the FBI show up at their home weeks later and arrest them on federal charges. Another who had never been arrested had over 20 federal agents show up to their home and point ARs at them and their housemate before taking them into custody. Several people now face serious federal charges, and it's clear that law enforcement's surveillance goes far beyond in the moment at the ICE building protests themselves.

IGD: *Tom Homan and others have made a lot of noise about the protests as "storming" the ICE facility, and have promised to return to Portland with greater intensity, what do you make of these threats and the narrative that protesters are a violent threat?*

Alissa Azar: The whole "protesters stormed the ICE facility" narrative is pure bullshit. Sure, a glass door got broken, and people were standing in the driveway and on the sidewalk, like they always do when protesting there. That's literally it. But that lie spread fast, because fabrications like this are a classic move by law enforcement, fascist regimes, and the media to justify repression. It's what fascists do: invent threats to manufacture consent for violence and authoritarian crackdowns.

Their strategy relies heavily on fear, scaring the public into accepting even more repression. But it's crucial to remember the historical context: these lies always come before escalations in state violence. The narrative they push isn't just about controlling the present; it's about paving the way for more brutality to come, making the next wave of repression seem necessary or even inevitable as they attempt to normalize the police state.

IGD: *What is the state of the demonstrations currently and where do you see things going in the future, especially with Portland's history of mobilizing against Trump?*

Alissa Azar: As I mentioned earlier, things have definitely shifted and continue to evolve. Right now, there are still ongoing daily demonstrations, with certain days or nights bringing out bigger crowds, sometimes specific communities responding to flyer campaigns or calls to action. But honestly, I think a lot of people are feeling a bit tapped out in regard to the demonstrations currently happening. I deeply respect those who can't stand the idea of inaction, but there's also something to be said about strategy and remembering this is a long game.

So many folks have faced extreme violence and been charged for simply standing on a sidewalk across from ICE. That kind of repression, combined with insane levels of surveillance, makes showing up feel unsafe and unsustainable for many. At the same time, a lot of people just want to do something; they're frustrated, angry, and looking for ways to resist. That's totally understandable, too. But I also think people want to be strategic. They're asking: What actually makes an impact right now? What's worth the risk? That kind of reflection isn't a sign of people backing down; it's a sign of movements maturing and adapting.

Where things go from here is hard to predict because everything is changing so fast, and tensions are escalating quickly. What I do know is that resistance has to keep adapting… our tactics, our strategies, our ways of organizing all have to evolve as the situation changes. And I think that's exactly what many people are doing; finding new ways to resist and defend our communities, getting ready for what's to come, and strengthening mutual aid networks.

“The Whole City is Fighting Back”

Remora House on Grassroots Resistance to Military Occupation in DC

August 25, 2025

For the last several weeks, federal agents and National Guard troops have flooded the streets of Washington DC, setting up an authoritarian occupation of the city; harassing residents, dismantling homeless encampments, and arresting undocumented workers. Under the manufactured pretext of “crime,” the Trump administration is accelerating the weaponization of both law enforcement and the military against targeted populations within the United States.

As *Mother Jones* reported:

> The White House has claimed arrests in DC are up since the takeover began, but they have refused to release detailed information backing those claims. And what data they have revealed suggests that arrests of undocumented immigrants, not violent criminals, account for the increase. The administration also asserts that the federal takeover has led to the dismantling of at least 48 homeless encampments, but lacking any plans for where the homeless will go, that effort appears to prioritize short-term aesthetics over

> longer-term solutions. Some tent-dwellers already appear to be returning to previously cleared areas.

As we speak, National Guard troops have now been armed with firearms and one National Guardsman has already caused one person to be hospitalized, after a "14-ton, mine-resistant armored vehicle" ran a red-light, and crashed into an SUV.

ICE agents have also used the military buildup to continue carrying out draconian operations against migrant workers – while also ramping up attacks on political speech and organizing that challenges their power. Again, from *Mother Jones:*

> On Thursday in the Mount Pleasant neighborhood….federal agents appear to have left a dildo in the place of an anti-ICE banner they purloined a week before, residents confronted and pursued three apparently off-duty federal agents, cursing at them and taunting them about the sex toy. "Did you forget your dildo?" the woman shooting the video repeatedly asked.

In response, DC residents have taken to the streets in mass protests, set up rallies to oppose checkpoints, held open air concerts and noise demos, organized mutual aid programs, and mobilized to confront and drive out ICE agents from their neighborhoods. The streets of DC have also seen an explosion of street art, with posters giving a nod to a recent incident where an individual threw a sandwich at federal agents.

Wanting to know more about what is happening on the streets of DC, we reached out the Remora House, an autonomous mutual aid group based in DC, about the growing movement against the military occupation.

IGD: *What are some of the big things you want people outside of DC to know about what is happening there?*

Remora House: The whole city is fighting back every day in every corner of the city.

Youth organizers are showing up and demanding their schools and spaces be free of police and federal occupation. Mutual aid groups are supporting unhoused neighbors during and after evictions in an incredibly hostile landscape giving them no options for a safe place to sleep. Migrant support groups are running hotlines to report detentions and providing legal support for people as well as making sure impacted families are fed and emotionally supported. Folks are hopping on bikes and patrolling the city to report checkpoints and other fed activity. People trying to enjoy some pizza on a restaurant patio are taking a quick second to yell at feds and national guard troops walking down the street.

The occupying forces haven't had a moment of peace and the city is working tirelessly to protect and support each other.

IGD: *In general, we've seen on social media lots of reports of both checkpoints of police and various federal agencies, ICE carrying out targeted arrests, and also National Guard troops basically standing around. What are you seeing in regards to the deployment of federal troops and agents? What are they doing? Is there a strategy, or is this all for spectacle on Fox News?*

RH: In DC, federal agents have been paired up with Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) officers, who are absolutely giving them intel on what neighborhoods have a large migrant community and high traffic areas to set up checkpoints and fish for any possible "crime" they can escalate to arrests.

ICE has targeted churches and food pantries in a neighborhood heavily populated with migrant neighbors – they knew to do that because MPD told them where to go. So bank on them having guidance from local PD, they won't be floundering trying to figure out where to go for long. They've also been setting up traffic checkpoints during rush hour (6-8pm) in some of the busiest intersections in the city, again being guided by local police to target Black neighborhoods.

Traffic stops have been escalated to arrests for nearly anything. Small infractions that would have MAYBE been a fine, if pursued at all, are arrests now. Tail lights out? Arrest. Selling loose cigarettes? Arrest. Smoking a joint in the park, where marijuana is decriminalized? Arrest. Fare evasion? Arrest. They are intentionally and strategically aggravating and escalating people so they can ramp up charges of evading arrest and assault. Part of it is absolutely for show, but its having very real impacts on the community and resulting and real arrests.

The National Guard is largely a spectacle, but the feds are very much targeting vulnerable communities and causing real harm.

IGD: *Why do you think Trump did not do that ride along like he threatened to do? This came after Vance, Miller and Hegseth were mocked and protested when they went out in public.*

RH: They have yet to have a successful photo-op in all of this because they are just being screamed at and called couch fuckers anytime they make an appearance. They wouldn't have gotten the propaganda they wanted.

IGD: *We've seen a lot of viral videos of rapid response teams setting up protests around checkpoints and people heckling agents and driving them out of public spaces. Can you speak more to what is happening on the ground?*

RH: People are sharing information on checkpoints super quickly online and DC is not a large city so people are able to mobilize quickly. On the ground, folks are self organizing to both film the cops, support anyone being detained, absolutely roasting every officer present, and setting up at intersections ahead of the checkpoints with posters to divert traffic around.

But a lot of it is just the people of DC trying to go about their day, seeing feds targeting people or trying to patrol neighborhoods, and taking some time to scream at them and let them know they are not welcome here, they are not wanted, and we're not going to be fucking quiet about it.

IGD: *What in the fuck happened with this dildo in the park with the banner?*

RH: Lol, no idea really. Feds tore down pro-migrant banners twice in a neighborhood with a large migrant community. The second time they left a dildo? Maybe they are the same tech bros throwing dildos at the WNBA games?

IGD: *How have mutual aid groups responded to attacks on the houseless community?*

RH: We have had a hard time with this one. One thing we have done is try to get information out to unhoused people, getting out know your rights information and safety precautions to take specifically for the unhoused community, as well as keeping people updated on what's happening, what's changing, what neighborhoods seem to be really targeted.

Previously, (on January 6th and the months of fascist marches leading up to it and the lockdown following), we have focused on hotels and metro cards to get folks temporarily out of harms way. Some groups have been working to get folks up in hotels immediately after an eviction so they have a few days to rest and regroup.

This is great, but not the best long term strategy, we don't have the time or money to keep it up long term, especially when we're looking at at least a month of the occupation. As encampments are constantly being evicted and unhoused folks are under near consent threat of state violence, we have found less want tents and more are asking for carts, sleeping bags, and tarps so they can be more mobile. We have responded by trying to listen and shift our supplies to meet this need.

IGD: *We're seeing protests, street art campaigns celebrating rebel sandwich throwers, and go-go "Free DC" music festivals. While the media has pushed a line of, "Where are all the protests," in reality it seems a lot is going on and the vast majority of the public is against what is happening. How do you see this continuing to manifest going forward?*

RH: People constantly forget DC is an actual city with real communities, families, groups, and individuals that work, go to school, and do all those normal everyday things people do in other cities.

DC has a long, radical history of tenant, worker, youth, and immigrant organizing. DC is Chocolate City, a name filled with decades of Black radical thought and action. During the 1980s, some of the countries strongest rights and policies were won for unhoused people through direct action and organizing. National media always portrays DC as the White House and Congress. It's hard to not see that playing out here. Democrats are barely doing anything, let alone protesting. Therefore they think DC is doing nothing. That is far from the truth. So many of us are organizing daily, making safe spaces for our youth, immigrant, and unhoused communities. We hope that the awesome work being done by everyday people in this city gains traction, but there is a long history of erasing resistance, protest, mutual aid, and organizing that goes beyond the National Mall and houses of power.

What is also missed here is what is protest? What is resistance? Marches in the street, banners, signs, yeah that's all one form of protest. Its flashy, its visible, journalists have photo opportunities, they pray a trash can is set on fire. But the person screaming out of their car window calling an ICE agent a Nazi is a protest. The people getting food to families of migrant neighbors abducted by ICE is resistance. Refusing to accept the police state, organizing to keep each other safe, directing traffic away from checkpoints, escorting folks to food pantries are all beautiful acts of resistance in a moment that the state wants us to hide and feel afraid.

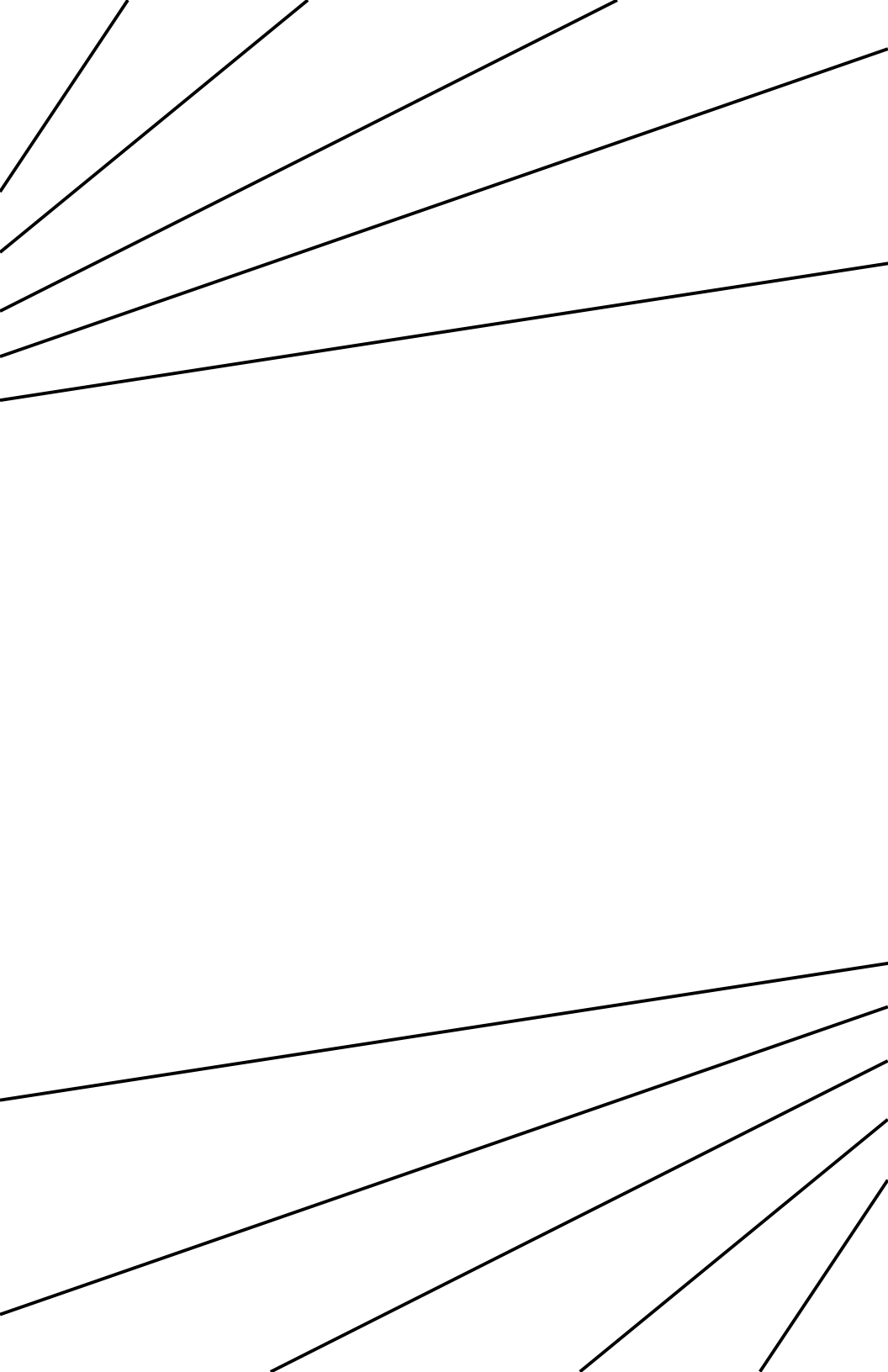
IGD: *If Trump follows through with threats to flood other cities with federal troops, what lessons from DC do you think they should learn from?*

RH: Communities should start doing car care clinics to lessen the likelihood of opportunistic traffic stops. Mutual aid groups and other services for migrant communities – churches, food pantries, mutual aid distributions – should start working on safety plans for the folks they

provide resources to in order to diminish the opportunity for ICE to make arrests and to continue to provide support to the people who need it.

Get ‘Know Your Rights’ information out to everyone but especially Black and Brown neighbors most likely to be criminalized. Practice with them so they are ready. Support mutual aid networks already in place supporting these communities.

Is there a cop watch hotline in your city? Can you get trained up and ready to support when there is an influx of calls? Is there a mutual aid network already providing care to families of people abducted by ICE? Can you offer your car, bike, wagon to help them get meals out?

***IGD:** Where can people donate, follow, and support mutual aid and local organizing?*

RH: Migrant Solidarity Mutual Aid, Remora House, Feed the People Mutual Aid, HIPS, Food not Bombs DC, Ward 1 Mutual Aid, Ward 2 Mutual Aid, Harriet’s Wildest Dream, and Free DC. For news, check out *The 51st*.